

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2006-107-WS - ORDER NO. 2006-410

JULY 17, 2006

IN RE: Application of United Utility Companies, Inc.)
for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and)
Modification to Certain Terms and Conditions)
for the Provision of Water and Sewer Service.)

ORDER APPOINTING
HEARING OFFICER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission) on the Commission's Motion to appoint Mr. B. Randall Dong, Esquire, to serve as a hearing officer in the present proceeding regarding the application of United Utility Companies, Inc. for adjustment of rates and charges for the provision of water and sewer service. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2005).

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

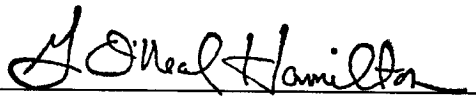
We find that Mr. B. Randall Dong meets this qualification, and we therefore grant the Motion appointing him as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Dong to rule on appropriate matters in the case up to the time of the hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

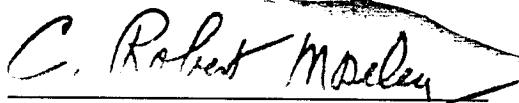
1. B. Randall Dong is hereby appointed as hearing officer in the pending proceeding filed by United Utility Companies, Inc. for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:


C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)